

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: ad40766e-d7a6-44e8-b0d0-8d6ed537f7f0

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1900598.007

Medium: Video File

Creator: Not stated

Country of origin: Brazil

Language: Portuguese

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 19 February 2020

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 19 February 2020

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	ad40766e-d7a6-44e8-b0d0-8d6ed537f7f0	1:48
Total running time:		1:48

Summary of reasons for decision:

'ad40766e-d7a6-44e8-b0d0-8d6ed537f7f0' is a digital video file that depicts a young man intentionally lighting himself on fire after dousing his body with a flammable liquid then jumping into water. His actions represent a social media dare commonly known as the 'Fire Challenge'. The unrestricted availability of 'ad40766e-d7a6-44e8-b0d0-8d6ed537f7f0' is likely to be injurious to the public good. There are reports of real harm resulting from young viewers attempting to imitate the activity depicted. Whilst the risk of harm is not restricted to young people, the likelihood of this audience underestimating the risks or overestimating their abilities is significantly greater given their general levels of cognitive development. Adults are expected to be able to critically analyse and apply an

appropriate degree of discretion when viewing behaviours that pose a risk of harm. ‘ad40766e-d7a6-44e8-b0d0-8d6ed537f7f0’ is therefore restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years and over. A restriction on the publication’s availability to adults limits the right to freedom of expression, as provided by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, but this is a reasonable and justifiable limitation given the risk of injury to the public good from its unrestricted availability.